

Appl. No. 09/967,029
Amdt. dated November 13, 2003
Reply to Office Action of August 13, 2003 (paper no. 13)

PATENT

REMARKS

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,692,498 in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,588,422. Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the intrathoracic pressure is reduced by spontaneous breathing of the patient while preventing or inhibiting respiratory gas flow to the lungs with the valve system (Application, p. 2, ll. 5 – 7). Further amendments have been made to certain claims consistent with this amendment. Examination of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

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